



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
City Manager's Office  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001  
[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

---

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Marilynne Beard, Deputy City Manager  
**Date:** June 20, 2013  
**Subject:** KIRKLAND 2035 – UPDATE #4

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

City Council receives an update on recent and upcoming public outreach and communication efforts relating to the Kirkland 2035 plan updates.

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

This is the fourth in a series monthly updates intended to apprise the City Council and the public about the results of recent public involvement activities and upcoming opportunities to get involved.

#### **Recent Activities**

#### **Walk and Roll Safety Fair – June 7, Juanita Beach Park**

The Walk and Roll Safety Fair was held in conjunction with the Friday Farmer's Market at Juanita Beach Park. Staff estimates as many as 500 people visited the fair, primarily families with children. A number of vendors provided activities and education. The Evergreen Safe Kids program sold twenty bike helmets and took fittings for another 15-20. The Bike Rodeo gave kids the opportunity to navigate their bikes through an obstacle course that included stop signs, slow signs and intersections. The Interlaken Volkswalkers sponsored an interactive walking route and the Kirkland Youth Council provided a bike decorating booth. Metro provided demonstrations about how to load a bike onto a Metro bus bike rack. Although there was no formal evaluation conducted, staff received many positive comments. The Walk and Roll Safety Fair may become an annual event.

#### **Community Planning Day -- June 8, Kirkland City Hall**

On Saturday, June 8, the City hosted a Community Planning Day from 10 am to 2 pm at City Hall. Displays and interactive opportunities were available on a drop-in basis, with staff and project consultants available to answer questions and receive input from participants. Opportunities to provide written comments were also made available at each project station as well as general community vision comments that were collected on butcher paper posted on walls in various locations. Kids' activities included tours of public safety vehicles and an event

“passport” where they could participate in games and challenges related to the various initiatives under study. Over 200 people participated in the overall event in addition to members of the City Council, Planning Commission, Parks Board, Transportation Commission and Houghton Community Council.

Two structured sessions were held in the Council Chamber. The first session was a Neighborhood U session presented by Joe Tovar on Growth Management Act basics and what they mean for Kirkland. Approximately 75 people attended the session which was videotaped for future broadcast on Kirkland’s cable TV channel. The second session was a Town Hall related to how the City’s business districts should develop to meet community needs. The session was moderated by Mayor Joan McBride and was attended by approximately 45 people. Members of the City Council and boards and commissions were present.

Participants were asked to complete evaluation cards for the event. Each person was asked to rate the following event elements on a scale of 1 to 5 with answers ranging from 1) Not At All to 5) Very Much. A total of 48 participant feedback cards were returned. The results and comments are summarized below:

Question	Average Score
How easy was the event to navigate?	4.64
How useful and easy were the materials?	4.50
How convenient was the time of this event?	4.48
How convenient was the location of the event?	4.90
How likely are you to attend another community planning day?	4.79

Raters were also asked an open-ended question about how we could improve future community planning events. Comments including:

- *Better advertisement of the event*
- *Clarification that it is was a drop-in event (didn’t need to stay the entire four hours)*
- *Offer lunch trucks in the parking lot*
- *Have the Town Hall more a two-way conversation*
- *More topic-specific presentations*
- *Consider bringing participants together based on common interests*
- *Excellent organization and execution*
- *Very exciting to see what opportunities are and start to dream about what could be. Very nice event. Thank you!*
- *Loved the postcards by mail*
- *Continue mailings for future community planning days*
- *Can’t think of any ways; I had about six or seven wonderful information discussions today!*
- *Have a comp plan update display and planner at community festivals and gatherings.*
- *Traffic flow through exhibit was difficult; people gathered at discussion stations and impeded movement*
- *This was the best attended and neat people!*
- *Loved all the helpers/volunteers and information*
- *Make it over two days (Friday/Saturday?)*
- *It was terrific networking opportunity as well as educational. Thank you!*
- *Great event; nice to speak directly with city staff and project teams!*

- *Good to see that my taxes are not being wasted!*
- *Well done! Thanks*
- *Better advertisement*
- *Well done event. It was great to have information on a variety of areas all at once. Large displays are good. Town hall discussion was very productive.*
- *Thank you for writing down all my comments today*
- *Fun idea!*

A summary of comments received by Planning on the Comprehensive Plan Update (from comment cards and visioning boards) and the Town Hall are included as Attachment A.

Based on the overall positive comments, a second Community Planning Day will be held in October. Staff is polling for Council availability. The focus for the next day will be to engage participants in the community visioning process and to obtain feedback on master plan concepts and ideas received to date. Adjustments to the format and activities will take into consideration the participant feedback.

### **Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon – June 1, Woodmark Hotel**

City Manager Kurt Triplett focused his annual state of the City address on economic development successes and the Kirkland 2035 plan and activities. Businesses were encouraged to be involved in the community planning process.

### **Juanita Corridor Workshop – June 12, Finn Hill Middle School**

The Juanita Corridor Study project team held a community workshop on June 12. Participants were asked for general input and could also comment on specific segments of the corridor of special interest to them. There were approximately 100 residents that participated in the workshop. Workshop materials can be viewed on the project webpage at [http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/Public\\_Works/Capital\\_Improvements/Juanita\\_Drive\\_7cfffXor\\_Study.htm](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/Public_Works/Capital_Improvements/Juanita_Drive_7cfffXor_Study.htm)

### Upcoming Events

Before the next presentation to Council takes place, two additional meetings will have occurred and staff will be able to provide a report on the results at the July 2 Council meeting.

### **Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance Meeting on Finn Hill Area Planning – June 25, Finn Hill Middle School**

Planning staff will be meeting with Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance about how to begin planning for the Finn Hill area on June 25. Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance president Scott Morris sent the following invitation to Finn Hill Residents:

*Dear Finn Hill neighbors:*

*Do you want to know what Finn Hill could look like in 5 years, or 10, or 25?  
Do you want to have an impact on how our neighborhood evolves?*

*The Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance has scheduled a neighborhood meeting to peer into the future with Kirkland Planning Director Eric Shields and Deputy Planning Paul Stewart on Tuesday, June 25, at 7pm in the Cafeteria of Finn Hill Middle School at 8040 NE 132<sup>nd</sup> St.*

*The meeting will focus on:*

- *how much more growth Finn Hill is expected to absorb under the current zoning plan (inherited from the County),*
- *where growth is most likely to occur on Finn Hill,*
- *whether the County's zoning decisions make sense,*
- *whether those decisions can be changed, and*
- *how the City will contend with laws that require it to absorb projected growth in its Comprehensive Plan update. (For a City staff memo on development capacity in Kirkland's neighborhoods, click [here](#).)*

*Typically, we find out about land use activities when it's too late to make a difference. Once postings go up on a property to announce a short plat application or permit request, there's little chance to rewrite the rules. But getting a long-term view of what the zoning map looks like offers an opportunity to ask fundamental questions while there may still be time to rethink the plan. It allows us as a community to send clear messages to our public officials about what we want and what we hope to avoid.*

*FHNA has been advocating for a Finn Hill neighborhood plan since we were annexed by the City 2 years ago. Kirkland's planning resources are currently focused on a citywide Comprehensive Plan update, mandated by state law, but our meeting on June 25 will give us an opportunity to talk to Kirkland's Planning Department about the development issues that concern us most. It is an important first step toward our own neighborhood plan.*

*We hope you'll make every effort to attend this informative and important meeting!*

***Scott Morris***  
***Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance - President***

## **Planning Commission Meeting on Comprehensive Plan Public Involvement Plan – June 27, Kirkland City Hall**

On June 18, the City Council received a presentation on the preliminary land capacity analysis and the implications for the Comprehensive Plan update. The Planning Commission will receive the same presentation at their June 27 meeting. In addition, the Commission will review the Planning staff's proposed public outreach strategy for the update of the Comprehensive Plan. The outreach plan will be presented to the City Council in July and will include presentations on the land capacity analysis to neighborhood associations, KAN and other stakeholder groups.



**Comprehensive Plan Update Station-**  
**Share Your Thoughts Comment Cards:**

- Shift terminology or "how we think" of Downtown Kirkland from a business center to more of an "Old Town" feel. Emphasis on living, dining, tourism/Marina. Our Business center, our Economic engine, our Center of Kirkland is Totem Lake Urban Center and Yarrow Bay Business District. That is where we work. ---Lisa McConnell, [kirby994@frontier.com](mailto:kirby994@frontier.com)
- More detailed planning & zoning, more mixed use & better way finding needed in Totem Lake Zone. Better ped. & bike connections throughout – shortcut & interconnections. ---Susan Jensen, [sjensen@triadassociates.net](mailto:sjensen@triadassociates.net)
- Start local area discussion group? ---Susan Jensen, [sjensen@triadassociates.net](mailto:sjensen@triadassociates.net)
- Businesses @ Bridal Trails Shopping Center are interested in redeveloping the site – How can this be included in the new Comp Plan? --- Anonymous
- Allow for brewing in Light Industrial Zones. See Hales in Ballard, Black Raven in Redmond and accessory brew pub, Elliot Bay in Lake City Way. ---D Jean Guth, [djguth@yahoo.com](mailto:djguth@yahoo.com)
- Old Albertsons – Improve pedestrian connections through property and would like to see it developed ---Anonymous
- Finn Hill – Pedestrian pathways needed to and from Juanita Dr. Beach Park ---same Anonymous as Old Albertsons comment

**Visioning Walls- What ISSUES do you hope your city focuses on as it plans for the year 2035?**

- Concerns regarding gentrification and cost of housing/living on fixed incomes:
  - affordable housing
  - making sure Kirkland isn't just for the mega-rich
- Kids:
  - Metro routes to schools
  - Easy access to Ballfields & Parks
  - Daycare facility goals in urban development

- Regulations for gambling, liquor sales, and marijuana growth & sale
- Sidewalks to places kids go to
- Smoking huts in designated locations
- Heavy ticketing and enforcement on underage drinking
- Allow small stores in residential zoned areas. Like grocery stores with apartments above.
- BIKE/PED TRANSPORTATION:
  - Use the CKC as a spine for Bike/Ped Transportation and connect the rest of the city w/East-West pedestrian/biker streets – safe for people of all ages.
  - Accountability.
  - Provide Bike/Pedestrian focused throughways.
  - DRIVERS need to learn how to drive with cyclists!
  - BIKERS – Get out of the ROAD!
  - There should be a biking education class.
  - Provide bike paths separated by planting strips from traffic.
  - X-K Corridor monorail w/bike & pedestrian path below.
  - Find some way to generate revenue to fund Bike Lanes from those who ride Bikes! License? Fees?
  - Tax what you don't want, i.e. cars, traffic jams, congestion, rather than what you do want!
  - There should be a bus transportation system on Holmes Pt. that connects ppl to Kenmore P&R.
  - Converting low-rise shopping centers into more efficient (in terms of land-use) communities.

**Visioning Walls- What is your *BIG IDEA* for Kirkland in the year 2035?**

- What about Local Improvement Districts to pool sidewalk developments instead of lot by lot.
- Limit “Big Ideas” to what “small taxes” will support.
- More sidewalks.

- More mixed use developments – like Juanita Village.
- Increase intergenerational opportunities.
- Passenger ferry(ies) – Kirkland to U dist/Madrona/? & Juanita Bay!
  - That would be sweet!
  - Drop off near downtown transit/streetcars
- Personal Responsibility.
- Consolidate Pub works/Pub utility ops with neighboring small cities & districts.
  - Agree with this idea!
- Pedestrians need far more attention at cross walks. And on any sidewalk. Cut back all vegetation to sidewalk width.
- More playgrounds

### **Town Hall Conversation -Ideas for "Making Business Districts Work for You"**

- Accessible to neighborhood – by foot, bike, auto
- Mix of businesses that meet needs of neighborhood so don't need to travel to get services
- Pedestrian access
- Parking is adequate
- Coalesce Totem Lake micro-businesses
- Daycare facilities – parents have to drive to get to school/daycare – need daycare where people work
- Historical district – maintain character of Kirkland by keeping historic buildings
- Parking or transportation system to accommodate transit
- Ensure compatibility of neighborhood business design with neighborhoods adjacent
- Local shuttle between business districts to cut down on traffic
- Green spaces in business districts to eat, walk

- Light rail on Kirkland Corridor (priority)
- Space to relax, sit, meet
- Totem Lake (the Lake) as a visible attraction
- Village character – some streets with no cars, just for walking
- Commitment to public gathering spaces – events, place to connect
- View corridors to natural habitat
- Trolley (like South Lake Union & Portland)
- Juanita Village is good model
- Connect to nearby parks – flow

### **Town Hall Conversation - Mixed Use**

- Mixed-use not always compatible with neighborhood or business district that is there
- Each business district has a unique character
- Don't be too rigid on ground floor commercial – more flexibility about what can go there
- Size of some mixed-use is a concern
- What kind of housing will be needed to accommodate growth? Affordability.
- Mixed-use should have transit incorporated to be successful – include along corridor
- Don't want a whole neighborhood of mixed-use – need variety to create character
- Mixed-use built before recession are not full but may be more successful as economy improves
- More flexibility on ground floor uses
- Each neighborhood has unique needs – mixed-use developments are still in a neighborhood
- Transit needed

- Parking with mixed-use – shared uses between commercial & residential
- Parking needs to be adequate
- Businesses serve neighbors and visitors
- Last trolley didn't work
- Park & Ride creates traffic
- Transit oriented development works
- "Live above work" – e.g. artist studio w/housing on top
- Housing units need to be affordable and accessible to people with all special needs
- Need open spaces in between and nearby mixed-use
- Mixed-use can be designed in a variety of ways e.g. not just small business below
- There are limited number of businesses that want to go into small ground floor spaces
- What fits Kirkland today? May not be same as in the past

**Town Hall Conversation - What should business district do to accommodate growth?**

- Assume fossil fuel will not always be available
- Have larger destinations (theater, Home Depot) in Kirkland and clustered
- Separate people from motorized vehicles (more pedestrian-oriented facilities)
- Totem Lake would become a wellness mall – includes assisted living residential
- Small hardware store back!
- Housing for middle class – need affordable
- Support smaller businesses
- Totem Lake to develop like a European village
- Kirkland as a destination city for tourism (not just in summer)

- Put character in building design - more interesting architecture – e.g. gargoyles
- Fred Meyer has a hardware store one-stop shopping
- People who are over 60 need light – LEED (green building) doesn't encourage enough lighting
- Need designated smoking places
- Multi-family will be needed to accommodate growth – it needs to go into business districts because they won't fit in neighborhoods
- Why do we have to have 8,000 new households?
- Where are 20,000 jobs going? (large employers?)
- Find a way to piggyback on winery traffic
- Housing – innovative ways to do (not just Multi-family or Single-family) – ADU's (affordable dwelling unit), duplex/triplex, infill, redevelopment
- Need office space (large campuses) to attract large businesses
- Be cautious with infill development in neighborhoods - if too close, ruins single family home. Minimum set-backs
- Character of neighborhood is what makes Kirkland unique
- Be cautious with speculators from outside Kirkland
- Keep in mind larger Puget Sound businesses – Kirkland as incubator for small startups
- Traffic jams are a problem
- Lots of potential in Kingsgate area - mixed-use would be good option – offices, gathering spaces, apartment homes, but fit in with neighborhood
- Plan more community centers (places where people can meet without having to pay)
- Indoor community meeting places
- Kirkland is cut in half by freeway and traffic – need to connect Kirkland to Kirkland across freeway
- Need transportation to get people around Kirkland (trolley, streetcar)

- Totem Lake used to have all the right elements when it first opened – what went wrong – know what that is before we fix it.

### **Town Hall Conversation – Themes**

- Character
- Compatible
- Flexible
- Connection
- Transportation
- Historic
- Gathering
- All weather
- Health
- Safety
- Architecture
- Accessibility
- Friendly
- Kirkland has many successes, things that work well.